

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars:

Objections to the specification

The specification presently is objected to because of informalities, including spelling and grammatical errors. The specification has been amended to correct the specific errors identified by the examiner, as well as additional errors found within the specification. In view of the amendments made, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim objections

Claims 1 and 11 are presently objected to because of informalities. Claims 1 and 11 have been by deleting the word “is” according to the examiner’s suggestion. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Allowable subject matter

The examiner has indicated that claims 9, 10, and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The examiner’s indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In this regard, claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 9, by incorporating the limitations of claim 9 and the intervening claims 7 and 8. Claims 7, 8, and 9 have been cancelled, accordingly. Applicant notes that the language of claim 9, now incorporated into claim 1, has been modified in the interest of clarity. It is respectfully submitted that this modified language substantially reflects the allowable subject matter of the original claim 9.

Also, independent claim 11 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 12, and claim 12 has been cancelled. Applicant notes that the language of

Application No.: 10/671,487
Examiner: Jason HAN
Art Unit: 2875

claim 12, now incorporated into claim 11, has been modified in the interest of clarity. It is respectfully submitted that this modified language substantially reflects the allowable subject matter of the original claim 12.

It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 and amended claim 11, and their respective dependent claims, are now allowable, as indicated by the examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments to the claims, and in further view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that claims 1-6 and 10, 11, 13, and 14 be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicant's attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown.

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-1176
Phone: (703) 683-0500

Date: January 23, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Schaefer", written in a cursive style.

JOHN R. SCHAEFER
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 47,921